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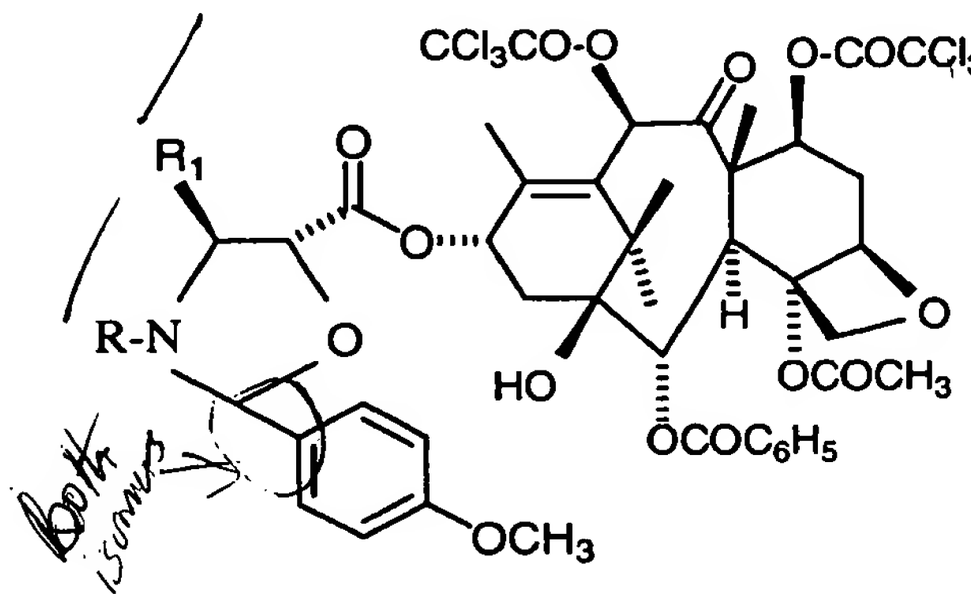
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

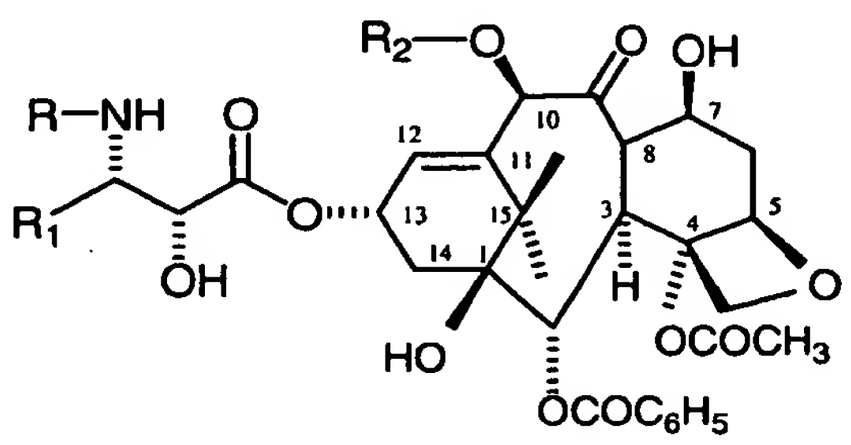
Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of Formula (IV)



wherein R is a tert-butoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, or straight or branched chain alkyl carbonyl group; R_1 is a phenyl or a straight or branched alkyl or alkenyl group; and R_2 is hydrogen or an acetyl group.

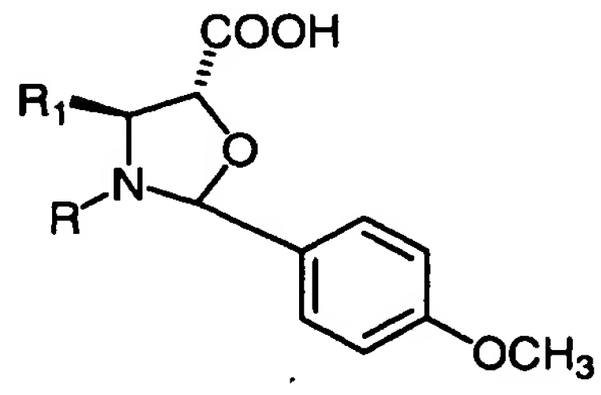
2. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I



wherein R is a tert-butoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, or straight or branched chain alkyl carbonyl group; R_1 is a phenyl or a straight or branched alkyl or alkenyl group; and R_2 is hydrogen or an acetyl group, said process comprising

(a) simultaneously protecting the C-7 and C-10 hydroxyl groups of 10-deacetylbaccatin III with trichloroacetyl groups to provide a protected 10-deacetylbaccatin III,

(b) esterifying the C-13 hydroxyl group of the protected 10-deacetylbaccatin III with an oxazolidine 5-carboxylic acid of formula II



wherein R is a tert-butoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, or straight or branched chain alkyl carbonyl group; R_1 is a phenyl or a straight or branched alkyl or alkenyl group to provide a protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III having an oxazolidine ring at the C-13 position;

(c) removing the trichloroacetyl groups from the protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III to provide a C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III;

(d) optionally acetylating the C-10 hydroxyl group of the C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III to provide a C-13 esterified baccatin III; and

(e) hydrolyzing the oxazlodine ring of the protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III or the C-13 esterified baccatin III in the presence of an acid to provide the compound of formula I.

3. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein step (b) is carried out in the presence of a condensing agent and a base.

4. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the condensing agent is dicyclohexylcarbodiimide.

5. (Original) The process of claim 4, wherein the base is pyridine.

6. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein step (c) is carried out using NH_4OH/NH_4Cl in an aliphatic solvent.

7. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein step (d) is carried out by reacting the C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III with acetic anhydride in the presence of a cerium III, scandium, or ytterbium salt.

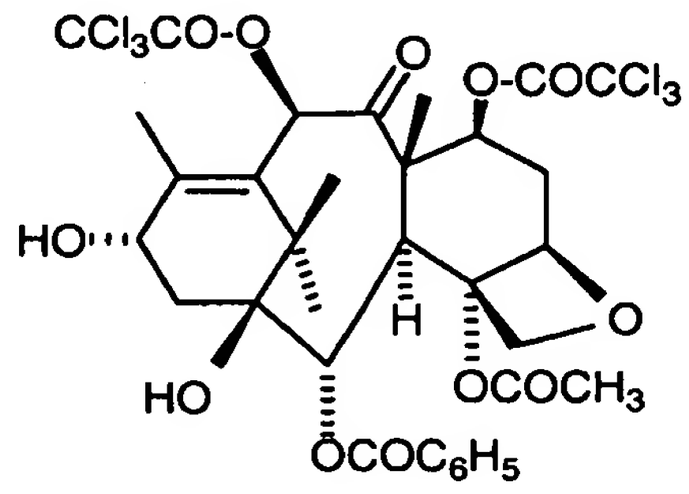
8. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein step (e) is carried out by reacting the protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III or the C-13 esterified baccatin III with an organic acid or an inorganic acid in an aliphatic alcohol or tetrahydrofuran.

9. (Original) The process of claim 8, wherein the acid is formic acid.

10. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein R is a benzoyl group, R_1 is a phenyl group, and R_2 is an acetyl group.

11. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein R is tert-butoxycarbonyl group, R_1 is a phenyl group, and R_2 is a hydrogen.

12. (~~Previously Presented~~) A compound of Formula (III)



(III)

New Claim fully undulines